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GULF OF TONKIN SITUATION REPORT NO. 5

Indications that the North Vietnamese (DRV) are expecting and preparing for further attacks were revealed in DRV naval cipher messages on 9 August. In a badly garbled message from Port Wallut, the Northern Fleet HQ, to T12Ø (a motor torpedo boat, MTB), instructions were given concerning the towing of two other MTB's. Also in the message was a badly garbled order to "drill for another attack." It is not clear if an attack against the DRV or an attack by the DRV is intended. Context of the message ends to indicate the former.

A later message from an unidentified station to Port Wallut informed the Northern Fleet HQ that T122 "has received (standing) orders to fight." The rest of the message was badly garbled.

The recovery of the "body" of an American pilot was disclosed in a 9 August message from Port Wallut. Since the only U.S. fatality is believed to have occurred in the area of the Song Ma Estuary, it is believed that Port Wallut is relaying this information for another station.

DRV naval HQ in Haiphong was observed instructing all vessels at sea that in view of the weather, they were to return to port at night to resupply and then return to sea in the morning. (DIST: OSCAR/VICTOR XRAY) PLUS ALL CVA NSGDETS WESTPAC)

ONLY TWO LOSSES AS

ALVAREZ -ALIVE/POW

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